THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ninth Five Year Plan of DoT envisages to provide telephone on demand progressively by 31-3-2002 with the private sector supplementing the efforts of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The expenditure for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been estimated at Rs. 73619 crores.

Corruption in GPO

676. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "Corruption touches new heights in Delhi GPO" published in Hindustan Times dated 4th October, 1999;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has since been conducted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof and the action Government have taken or propsoe to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Enquiries made into the case reveal that one Shri Tarvinder Singh purchased a National Savings Certificate for Rs. 5000/- on 7.3.90 from Delhi General Post Office. His application for the purchase of certificate was registered under No. 4381. The complainant produced his certificate for discharge on 3.7.99 but was refused payment on the plea that the said certificate stood discharged. The complainant thereupon approached the Office of Director Postal Accounts who informed that the certificate in question, according to their records, had not been encashed. Being confronted with this information, the relevant records were checked and was found that the note regarding discharge of another certificate registered under No. 4382 was erroneously recorded on the document pertaining to the NSC of the complainant, namely, Sh. Tarvinder Singh, registered under No. 4381. The certificate was thereafter duly discharged and the payment made to the complainant on 6.10.99. Suitable action has been initiated against the officials at fault.

345/RS/F-5B